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Minutes 03/13/2012

Tri-Community Working Group Meeting Minutes -- 3/13/2012

The Tuesday, March 13, 2012 meeting of the Tri-Community Working Group for Flooding Issues was held at 6:00 pm, in the second-floor meeting room of Arlington Town Hall.

Attending:

Wayne Chouinard
Anne Johnson
Martha Mude
Owen O'Riordan
Steve Revilak
Clarissa Rowe
Mike Santoro
Jennifer Wright

Approval of January 10th Meeting Minutes

The January 10, 2012 meeting minutes were approved.

Horsley Witten Report on the Silver Maple Forest

The report made some good points. Impervious surfaces increase runoff; LID (low-impact development) is good for water quality, but not an effective method for flood prevention. The report failed to address the overall Mystic Watershed, which is perhaps its biggest shortcoming. That said, there was recognition that a watershed-wide study would be very expensive.

Several groups raised money to develop a report regarding the impact of development in the Silver Maple Forest. This document pulls together information from existing reports, and adds additional analysis. The report states that vegetation removal will reduce water loss due to evaporation. But it's possible for water to collect underground and cause mounding.

One attendee recently observed a pair of bald eagles in the Silver Maple Forest.

CLOMR Process For Discovery Park

Arlington signed off on the CLOMR (conditional letter of map revision). The developer provided \$25,000 for flooding study; however, the developer was not interested in funding the Alewife Brook USGS gauge at Broadway. During heavy rainstorms, residents who live along Alewife Brook rely on the USGS gauge for real-time data.

The \$25,000 fund will be used to fund flooding studies in the Alewife region of Arlington. We should consider how to use this study fund effectively.

Belmont was not required to sign off on the CLOMR; none of the Discovery Park development is taking place in Belmont.

Discovery Park building permits have not been issued. The developer is moving forward with steps to contact

Conservation Commissions, etc.

New Business

There are plans to use a portion of the Mugar site for flood storage.

Cambridge expects to enter the first phase of their flooding and climate change assessment.

Meeting adjourned at 18:25.